



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

Vol. 20, No. 1

February 1977

AT THE CANDLELIGHT DINNER . . . MEMBERS GO BEHIND THE SCENES FOR THE PLANNING OF "THE TEN CRUCIAL DAYS"

More than 5,000 people, including visitors from each of the 50 states, gathered on a snow-covered field at Princeton to watch the reenactment of the battle fought there 200 years ago. When the battle started, American forces, concealed in the woods, opened fire as regiments of British troops and Highlanders marched down the road. At the far end of the field other British forces half concealed by a row of trees took up their position. The cannonading continued almost without letup, and the nervous sound of musket fire punctuated the cannons' booms. Aim was true; casualties high. (Much to the children's disappointment the "dead" did not lie dead long; the ground was wet and their expensive, authentic uniforms could have been damaged.)

When the battle ended, the combatants marched off the field and headed toward "Prince Town." Along the way one could see how well-dressed and armed the British troops were; and how

(Continued on Page 4)

CANDLELIGHT DINNER

DATE:

Wednesday, Feb. 16, 1977

TIME:

Punch Party, 6:30 P.M.

Dinner 7:00 P.M. promptly

PLACE:

Haddon Fortnightly Clubhouse

CATERER:

D. F. McCallister & Sons

RESERVATIONS:

Please mail check (\$10.00 per person), payable to Historical Society of Haddonfield, to:

Mrs. Richard Carll

667 Euclid Avenue

Haddonfield, N.J. 08033

Telephone: 429-3117

Reservations **must** be made by February 12. Your reservation will be held at the dinner.

Please note the new day—
Wednesday.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Following our Bicentennial year, in which every month provided a different historical event, 1977 could be an anticlimactic period, not only here in Haddonfield but for the entire country as well.

Let's do our part to sustain the interest which the Bicentennial aroused. Supporting the Samuel Mickle (Hip Roof) House Drive is a most worthy cause for all of us. Wouldn't it be exciting to have this early house finished and open to the public? While there are many restored houses up and down the eastern seaboard, very few are humble dwellings representative of the average colonial settler. When completed, the Samuel Mickle House will be an educational experience for every school child in the area as well as a fascinating house museum for adults. Clearly, this is a project which we can take pride in now and in the future.

Our Society needs volunteers in many areas such as the library staff, the Hostess Committee, the House and Grounds Committees, to say nothing of the endless duties of the Woman's Committee. Wherever our members would like to participate, there are jobs available and a warm welcome from committee chairmen.

There is a continuing need for increased membership. Let's all make an effort to invite our friends and neighbors to join us in preserving our past for the appreciation of future Americans.

CAROLINE B. MOODY

TEA TIME IN FEBRUARY

By February there's a quickening in the air, a sense of expectancy and winter-repressed spirits begin to soar. What better time to celebrate! The Woman's Committee agrees.

A February Birthday Tea committee, with members Mrs. Harry P. Atkinson, Miss Ann Blau, Mrs. Charles H. Carré, Mrs. Mary Chamberlin, Mrs. Everett Fraser, Mrs. Bertha McCutcheon and Mrs. B. Dexter Streeter, has volunteered to set the tea table. In addition to the home-baked delicacies for which the Woman's Committee is noted, there is to be another surprise. Mrs. Richard E. Traver will discuss the history of doll houses and will bring one to illustrate her talk, and Mrs. James Scheetz, an authority on dolls and mistress of the Calico Doll Shop in Kirkwood, will identify some of the more outstanding dolls in the Christopher collection.

Admission to this festive occasion is either an article for the auction or a donation of \$3.00. The date is Tuesday, February 22, at 2:00 p.m. For a respite from the usual join the Woman's Committee for tea!

MRS. ARTHUR B. CHRISTOPHER

It is with genuine regret that we mention Mrs. Christopher's death on July 16, 1976. The legacy she left us—more than 700 dolls, her gentle spirit and love for children—will not be forgotten.

Some of Mrs. Christopher's dolls need a home—a case for protection and display. If someone has such a case not now in use, please call Acquisitions Chairman Martha Goettelmann.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

OFFICERS, TRUSTEES AND COMMITTEE HEADS

FEBRUARY, 1977

OFFICERS:

<i>President:</i>	Mrs. William E. Moody
<i>First Vice President:</i>	Mrs. James J. Lennon
<i>Second Vice President:</i>	M. Elmond Neeley, Jr.
<i>Third Vice President:</i>	Mrs. Edward E. Krauss, Jr.
<i>Recording Secretary:</i>	Mrs. George B. Whitten, Jr.
<i>Corresponding Secretary:</i>	Mrs. Edwin Spragg
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Ferris A. King
<i>Immediate Past President:</i>	Mrs. Thomas H. McGlade

TRUSTEES:

Term expires in:

1977

Mrs. F. B. Brigham
Merritt W. Pharo
James Pond
Wallace L. Root
Ronald Shaffer

1978

Joseph N. Hartel
Mrs. J. Willard King
John Majka
Mrs. William H. Stow, Jr.
Henry A. Watson*

1979

Miss Ann Blau
Mrs. William Buch
Blair M. Murphy
Ms. Ruby B. Oberst
William E. Olver, 3rd

* Mr. Watson was elected to fill the unexpired term of Charles R. Mulloy, Jr.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

<i>Archives:</i>	<i>Hostesses:</i>
Mrs. C. H. Carré	Mrs. Axel Johnson
<i>Acquisitions:</i>	<i>Library:</i>
Mrs. L. H. Goettelmann	Mrs. E. E. Hess
<i>Books and Pictures:</i>	<i>Furnishings:</i>
Mrs. J. G. Haydock	John S. Wood, Jr.
<i>Education:</i>	<i>Building:</i>
Mrs. R. B. Carll	L. J. Test
<i>Exhibits:</i>	<i>Grounds:</i>
	B. Dexter Streeter
<i>Finance:</i>	<i>Woman's:</i>
M. E. Neeley, Jr.	
<i>Hospitality:</i>	<i>Candlelight Tour:</i>
Mrs. W. H. Stow, Jr.	
<i>Samuel Mickle House:</i>	<i>House:</i>
L. H. Goettelmann	
<i>Samuel Mickle House Fund Drive:</i>	<i>Wednesday Evening Group:</i>
M. E. Neeley, Jr.	Mrs. Stephen Snodgrass

There are four important vacancies to be filled. If there is a member with time to devote to the management of one of these necessary committees, please call president Caroline Moody. She can guarantee anyone willing to take the responsibility a cadre of capable, enthusiastic workers.

A SCRAP OF HISTORY

One of the pleasures of working at the Society library is having the opportunity to read the manuscripts which are to be catalogued. Much as librarian Gertrude Hess would like to have all the books and documents neatly classified and properly placed, she also wants the volunteer staff to enjoy their afternoons in the library and encourages them to read the material assigned to them.

A recent library volunteer, Mrs. Robert M. Henderson, was given the responsibility of sorting and identifying the collection given by Mrs. Joseph W. Pennypacker (see "Recent Accessions to the Library," November, 1976). She became fascinated with the story of the Browning family and its involvement in the West Jersey Ferry Company. Here is Kitty Henderson's account:

"Three brothers and three sisters—Abraham Browning one of the brothers, a lawyer, and for the most part spokesman for the family, formed the West Jersey Ferry Co. in 1849. There was much opposition to the plan from the citizens of Camden, and in particular, from those near the waterfront whose land would be affected by the construction of wharves, slips and a ferry house at the foot of Market Street.

"Town meetings were called, anonymous letters were written to Abraham Browning and temper flared.

"However, in time the title to the property acknowledged as belonging to the City of Camden was vested in the Ferry Company. Soon, West Jersey owned ferry boats glided between Camden and Market Street in Philadelphia and also to Callowhill Street in Northern Liberties through a small channel between Smith's Island and a sand bar,

both of which have long since been removed from the Delaware River. These ferries were the "Southwark," "William Penn" and "Farmer."

"Since the West Jersey Ferry Company continued to operate and bonds were sold to help finance the project, it would seem that anger gave way to progress and the company prospered. In 1883 the Pennsylvania Railroad secured control of the West Jersey Ferry Company through purchase of stock still held by members of the Browning family."

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

Since an item-by-item listing of gifts and bequests is made in November, the Board thought members would like to learn now of some of the gifts recently given to the Society. From the estate of Benjamin T. Wood—family-associated furnishings including a 19th century table made by Charles Githens of yew inlaid with boxwood, from trees planted by Elizabeth Haddon Estaugh; from the estate of Mrs. James Trend (Eleanor Reilly) several household utensils and an unusual Wilcox and Gibbs sewing machine, dated 1922; from Mrs. Robert Chew—several handsome pieces including two bibles, dated 1839 and 1855, and a tilt-top tea table of walnut with birdcage; from Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Pearson, a collection of shards from an excavation of the 1740 Gill farmstead; from Miss Blandina Ogle, three red clay bottles made by William Wingender; and from Ronald Shaffer, Samuel Mickle House embroidery kit, marked No. 2 of a limited edition of 200.

The bequests of Mr. Wood and Mrs. Trend also include rare and out-of-print books dealing with a variety of historic subjects.

Historical Society of Haddonfield
Haddonfield, New Jersey

Non-Profit Organization

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Haddonfield, N. J.

AT THE CANDLELIGHT DINNER . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

aptly described the Americans were as "rag, tag, and bobtail." The contrast was pitiful, and one could only admire the nerve, spirit and sense of mission that made these men go on.

How did this happen? From where did all these troops come and how did they get to Princeton? Where did they stay? How were they fed?

Was there a rehearsal of the battle? How did the combatants know where to go? What to do? Were the cannons, gun carriages and muskets authentic?

These and many more questions will be answered by H. David Earling, Project Director on the staff of the New Jersey American Revolution Bicentennial Celebrations Commission. Mr. Earling's "romance with history" began years ago when his grandmother "who saved everything" allowed him to go through her treasures. This interest grew, flourished and soon turned into action. Mr. Earling formed his own militia regiment, the 3rd Gloucester, which took part in the reenactment.

Mr. Earling, who will come in his uniform, wants to communicate his enthusiasm for New Jersey history at the Candlelight Dinner. To enhance the flavor of the evening, those who have a costume of the period are invited to

wear it. Let's share the spirit of '77, for in many ways 1777 was *the* year of decision for New Jersey.

**SAMUEL MICKLE HOUSE
RESTORATION FUND:
AN UPDATE**

The fund-raising drive conducted among the members of the Society brought response from 101 member families, and total gifts to the fund of \$5,239.00. Added to monies on hand, there is a total of \$7,400.00 immediately available.

Elmond Neeley, Jr., chairman of the Samuel Mickle House Fund Drive, reported that generally those contributing to the campaign were glad to do so. Many did express their dismay at how long it is taking to complete the restoration and how much it costs. One member commented "I agree it is a historically valuable house and worthy of restoration, but it is of no value to anyone if its doors are locked and it is not being used."

Send all information
for the BULLETIN to:
Patricia W. Lennon, Editor